

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda, NY

August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost



## AS WE GATHER

Today we see the importance of God's Word in our lives. God's Word is what kept the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land. God's Word is the sword of the Spirit, a portion of the armor of God we are given and told to put on. God's Word leads us, protects us, and helps us fight against the evil one.

## TLH 462 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Lord, the unfolding of Your words gives light.

**Your Word imparts understanding to the simple.**

Keep steady our steps according to Your promise,

**and let no iniquity gain dominion over us.**

Cast us not away from Your presence,

**and take not Your Holy Spirit from us.**

Restore to us the joy of Your salvation,

**and uphold us with a willing spirit.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We are God's people. Through His Word, He has given us wisdom and understanding to follow His ways. Yet, there are times when we have chosen foolishness over wisdom, willful ignorance instead of understanding. Still, even now, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him and ask for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Heavenly Father,

**we have ignored Your Word. We have lived according to our own commands rather than Yours. We have chosen the wisdom of the world instead of Your perfect wisdom. Forgive us, create in us new hearts, and renew right spirits within us, so that we may follow where You are leading, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom and grace, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our sins. Because of Jesus, the joy of our salvation is restored, and no iniquity can remain in dominion over us. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We have been cleansed of our sin. Amen.**

## **Introit**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.***

## **Kyrie**

***Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.***

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

Glory be to God on High,  
***and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Let us pray.

O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading** *Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9*

<sup>1</sup>“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you... <sup>6</sup>Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ <sup>7</sup>For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? <sup>8</sup>And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today. <sup>9</sup>“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children...”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle** *Ephesians 6:10–20*

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the

devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Alleluia and Verse**

Alleluia. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Alleluia.

### **Holy Gospel** *Mark 7:14–23*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

#### ***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

<sup>14</sup>And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." <sup>17</sup>And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup>since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts,

sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**TLH 465 Christ is our Corner-Stone**

**Sermon**

**Offertory**

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.***

***Amen.***

## **Prayer of the Church**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

For all people who serve in various vocations, that they be given creativity, wisdom, understanding, discernment, and courage to follow where God is leading. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

For all those who celebrate good news of births and birthdays, anniversaries and Baptisms, success at work or school, and anything else that is worthy of praise, we thank You, Lord. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

For all those who mourn the death of loved ones, we pray for comfort in the face of grief. Help them to grasp firmly our hope in the resurrection and eternal life with You. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

For all those who govern in this nation and throughout the world, that they lead and serve according to God's wisdom rather than the wisdom of the world. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

For all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church, that God's Word rules their lives and overflows into the lives of others. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

For all who fight the assaults of Satan, that they find strength and protection in the whole armor of God. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

For all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*], that God would grant them healing according to His good and gracious will. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,  
**and I will praise Thee without end.**

Lord, we commend all these things to Your infinite wisdom and guidance, knowing that You hear us.

**People: Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Pax Domini**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

***Amen.***

### **Salutation and Benedicamus**

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Bless we the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

***Amen. Amen. Amen.***

**TLH 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns**